U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Fact Sheet on the Record of Decision
Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund Site
Gainesville, Florida

February 2011

This fact sheet is intended to keep the community informed about progress at the Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund Site located in Gainesville, Florida. This fact sheet announces the Record of Decision for cleanup at the site.

SUMMARY

EPA has finalized the Record of Decision (ROD) to clean up the Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund Site located in Gainesville, Florida. The ROD requires treatment of stormwater, sediment, soils, groundwater and surface water on and nearby the former Koppers wood-treating facility and the former Cabot Carbon charcoal production facility. Once cleanup is complete, the site will be able to be reused for commercial, industrial, recreational or mixed-use with a residential component. The Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Beazer East has committed to working with local citizens and local government entities to redevelop the site.

The final ROD reflects many changes made following the receipt of public comments, as well as comments from several agencies including the City of Gainesville, the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, the Florida Department of Health, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. EPA undertook a comprehensive four-year public involvement process that included over 22 opportunities for the public to provide input on the Agency's proposed plans, encompassing site tours, participation in City of Gainesville/Alachua County public meetings, public availability sessions and community interviews. The public was further invited to provide input on site reuse through public meetings, and a site-reuse assessment is presently being prepared that will document the results of those engagement efforts.

Find the complete Record of Decision and other site documents:

www.epa.gov/region4/waste/npl/nplfln/cabkopfl.htm

Changes were made to EPA's July 15, 2010, proposed plan based on comments received from the public and the agencies noted above. Specific changes include:

1. PRP Beazer East is required to implement soil stabilization/solidification in both the Surficial and Upper Hawthorn Aquifers where there have been monitored exceedances of groundwater cleanup levels in the Floridan Aquifer.

2. The ROD has been updated to include specific criteria that detail conditions under which additional containment and treatment of contaminated groundwater in the Floridan Aquifer will take place.

3. The addition of an expanded monitoring network in the Upper Floridan Aquifer on the former Koppers portion of the site.

4. Potential groundwater contamination from the former Cabot Carbon facility in the Hawthorn Aquifer will be investigated and remediated.

A summary of the selected remedy components follows. Please refer to the illustration below of the treatment areas described.

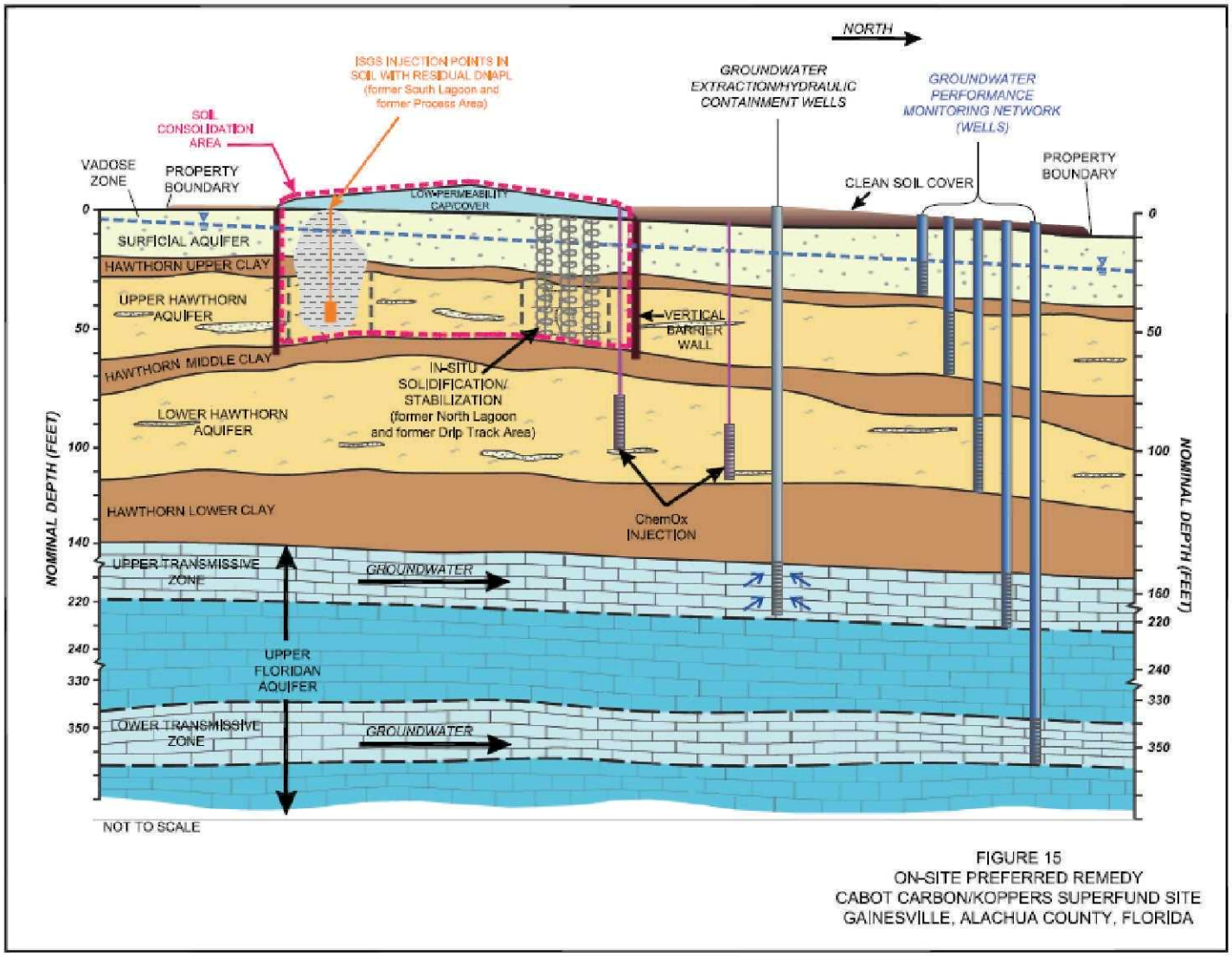

FIGURE 15
ON-SITE PREFERRED REMEDY
CABOT CARBON/KOPPERS SUPERFUND SITE
GAINESVILLE, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

OFF-SITE REMEDIAL COMPONENTS

Nearby residential and commercial properties where soil contamination is indentified will be cleaned up to the most conservative standard based on appropriate land use (e.g., residential properties will be cleaned up to meet stringent residential standards).

Contaminated soil will be excavated and removed, and then replaced with clean fill. Landscaping will also be replaced. To prevent future exposure to soil that exceeds the cleanup goals, both engineered and institutional controls may be used based on the preference of the property owner. These could include paving or changed use of certain areas on a voluntary basis.

The sediment from contaminated hot spots along Hogtown and Springstead Creeks will be excavated, removed and replaced with clean sediment. Monitored natural recovery will be used to ensure that the creeks return to a natural state over time.

A detention pond on the former Koppers facility will be used to capture surface water from storm events, allowing any contaminated sediments to settle out before the water is discharged into the Hogtown and Springstead Creeks.

ON-SITE REMEDIAL COMPONENTS

On-site soils contaminated with wood treating chemicals will be cleaned up to the most conservative standard based on appropriate land use (i.e., commercial property will be cleaned up to meet commercial standards). An impermeable engineered cap as part of a source area containment system will be placed over a contaminated soil consolidation area on the site. A minimum of two feet of clean soil will be placed over all impacted soils on the property to prevent direct contact and support reuse.

To address contamination within the shallow Surficial Aquifer and the Hawthorn Aquifer beneath it, a 65-foot vertical barrier wall will be installed below the engineered cap that will encompass the four source areas of contamination. The wall will serve to further isolate contamination and prevent its migration. Within the former Process Area and South Lagoon, chemical treatment injections will be used that react with contaminants to reduce, encapsulate and solidify impacted aquifer material. Within the North Lagoon and Drip Track Area, soils will be mixed with a solidifying agent to prevent contaminants from leaching into groundwater. Groundwater within and surrounding the barrier wall will be captured, treated and discharged to the Gainesville Regional Utility wastewater treatment plant. In the deeper portions of the Hawthorn Aquifer, chemical treatment will be used to render contaminated groundwater harmless.

In order to address contamination within the deep Upper Floridan Aquifer, where Gainesville's drinking water is withdrawn, contaminated groundwater will be pumped, treated and discharged into the Gainesville Regional Utility wastewater treatment plant. Additional monitoring wells will be installed throughout the Upper Floridan Aquifer and sampled regularly to effectively monitor conditions within the aquifer. Should conditions change, additional containment and treatment of contaminated groundwater in the Floridan Aquifer will take place.

NEXT STEPS

Within the next month, the demolition of the Koppers facility will be completed. EPA expects to complete off-site soil contamination delineation of residential and commercial/industrial properties within the next three to six months. The Remedial Design, detailing specific engineering plans for the site cleanup, will be completed within 18 months.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Within the next year, it is anticipated that the negotiation of the Consent Decree (CD) formalizing the cleanup plan and the responsibilities of each party, including EPA, will be complete. EPA awarded a Technical Assistance Grant to Protect Gainesville Citizens, Inc. in 2010 and will work with their technical advisor in support of community outreach. As part of the development of the CD, a federal register notice will be published inviting public comment on the draft. Lastly, EPA will issue a public notice in the local paper inviting the public to attend a federal district court hearing in Gainesville where the CD will be considered before it is finalized.

For more information, contact:

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